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181057Z Mar 02

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ACTION INR-00

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	LAB-01	VCE-00	NSAE-00	CAEX-01	TEST-00	USIE-00	IIP-00
	DSCC-00	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/004W		
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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1234
INFO NSC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
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AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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SIPDIS

AF/PD FOR COX AND ROBERTSON, AF/S FOR KRAFT AND
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FRAZER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [Z1](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ZIM PRESIDENTIAL POLL; HARARE

[1](#)1. EDITORIALS IN THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED
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NEWSPAPERS PLAY ON ANTI-COLONIAL EMOTIONS AND URGE
ZIMBABWEANS TO MOVE ON BEYOND THE ELECTIONS TO
NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND PROGRESS. EDITORIALS
IN THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS, HOWEVER, FOCUS ON
QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ELECTION AND THE LEGITIMACY OF
THE MUGABE GOVERNMENT. EXCERPTS FOLLOW:

[1](#)2. UNDER HEADLINE "MUDEDE HAS FAILED THE NATION
UNFORGIVABLY," INDEPENDENT DAILY "THE DAILY NEWS"
(03/18) COMMENTS:

"THERE ARE A NUMBER OF CRUCIAL PLAYERS WHO MADE IT
POSSIBLE YESTERDAY FOR ROBERT MUGABE TO STAND
BEFORE CHIEF JUSTICE GODFREY CHIDYAUSIKU WHO SWORE
HIM IN AT THE BEGINNING OF HIS THIRD TERM AS
PRESIDENT OF ZIMBABWE. THE MAN AT THE CENTER OF
MUGABE'S PYRRHIC (SIC) VICTORY IS TOBAIWA MUDEDE,
THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL AND A CLOSE RELATIVE OF THE
PRESIDENT. THE DISPUTED PLEBISCITE IS THE SIXTH
NATIONAL POLL HE HAS PRESIDED OVER. . . MUDEDE'S
RECORD AS A PARTISAN AND INCOMPETENT PUBLIC
OFFICIAL IS WELL DOCUMENTED. . . IN ORDER TO
COMMAND THE RESPECT OF ALL CONTESTANTS IN AN
ELECTION, THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL MUST BE COMPLETELY
ABOVE ANY FORM OF SUSPICION. MUDEDE LOST THAT
TRUST AND RESPECT A DECADE AGO. . . TOGETHER WITH
OTHERS, MUDEDE MUST BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR
WHATEVER HAPPENS IN THE POST-ELECTION PERIOD
ARISING FROM MUGABE'S CONTROVERSIAL AND LARGELY
UNRECOGNIZED VICTORY. MUDEDE HAS FAILED ZIMBABWE
UNFORGIVABLY. HE MUST RESIGN."

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[1](#)3. UNDER HEADLINE "TIME TO REDIRECT ENERGIES," THE
GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED DAILY "THE HERALD" (03/18)
COMMENTS:

". . .EMERGING FROM A HARD-FOUGHT PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION ZIMBABWEANS SHOULD NOW PUT THE PAST MONTHS
BEHIND THEM AND REDIRECT THEIR ENERGIES TOWARDS
RECONSTRUCTING THE ECONOMY. WE SHOULD ALL NOW PULL
IN THE SAME DIRECTION. AS THE PRESIDENT SAID (IN
HIS INAUGURATION SPEECH ON MARCH 17), ALL
ZIMBABWEANS, INCLUDING MDC SUPPORTERS, MUST BE
UNITED TO WORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ZIMBABWE.
SANCTIONS WILL HURT ALL THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY,
REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL PERSUASION. FOREIGNERS
CANNOT INTERFERE IF ZIMBABWEANS CLOSE RANKS. THE
MDC SHOULD DISABUSE ITSELF OF THE NOTION THAT
ZIMBABWEANS ARE ANGRY AND MIGHT RISE UP AGAINST THE
GOVERNMENT. PEOPLE HAVE MOVED ON AND EXPECT THE
OPPOSITION PARTY TO BE RESPONSIBLE ENOUGH TO PLAY

ITS ROLE IN ZIMBABWE'S DEVELOPMENT. . . THE
PROBLEMS WE FACE AS A NATION ARE MANY AND VARIED.
BUT IF ALL ZIMBABWEANS PLAY THEIR PART THEY CAN BE
OVERCOME."

14. UNDER HEADLINE "AFRICANS MUST NOT BE
INTIMIDATED," THE BULAWAYO-BASED GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED
DAILY "CHRONICLE" (03/18) COMMENTS:

". . .WE TAKE PRIDE IN THE SUPPORT THAT WE HAVE
RECEIVED FROM OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES BUT WE WISH
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TO WARN THEM THAT THE STRUGGLE IS NOT OVER YET. . .
WE KNOW THAT THE WESTERN COUNTRIES ARE ALREADY
TRYING TO BLACKMAIL PRESIDENT THABO MBEKI OF SOUTH
AFRICA. WE WOULD BE NAVE AS A PEOPLE IF WE GAVE
IN TO THE WHIMS OF WHITE PEOPLE AT A TIME WHEN WE
SEEM ON COURSE TO REASSERT OUR INTEGRITY AS THE
PEOPLE OF AFRICA. WE URGE AFRICAN COUNTRIES NOT TO
RELENT AT THE LAST MINUTE, FOR THE HOUR FOR OUR
VICTORY IS NIGH. AFRICA HAS A VOICE AND THAT VOICE
SHOULD BE LISTENED TO, TONY BLAIR OR NO TONY BLAIR!
WE STAND TALL BECAUSE MOST LEADERS FROM THE
SOUTHERN AFRICA REGION ATTENDED PRESIDENT MUGABE'S
INAUGURATION YESTERDAY IN A SHOW OF SOLIDARITY WITH
THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE."

15. UNDER HEADLINE "NO SURRENDER TO AUTOCRACY," THE
INDEPENDENT WEEKLY "THE STANDARD" (03/17) COMMENTS:

". . .THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE. . .MUST REJECT THIS
FRAUD BY ALL MEANS AT THEIR DISPOSAL. THEY MUST

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	VCE-00	DCP-01	NSAE-00	TEST-00	USIE-00	EPAE-00	IIP-00
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P 181057Z MAR 02
FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1235
INFO NSC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 04 HARARE 000698

SIPDIS

AF/PD FOR COX AND ROBERTSON, AF/S FOR KRAFT AND
SCHLACHTER, AF/RA FOR SWANN, INR/R/MR, NSC FOR JENDAYI
FRAZER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ZI](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ZIM PRESIDENTIAL POLL; HARARE

REJECT AN ILLEGAL GOVERNMENT LED BY A PREDATORY
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POLITICAL PARTY THAT HAS GROWN WILD IN SAVAGERY AND
LED BY AN OLD AND SENILE AUTOCRAT WITH THE
POLITICAL MORALITY OF A SEWER RAT. THEY MUST
RECLAIM THEIR POWER TOGETHER WITH THEIR ELECTORAL
VICTORY. THIS ENTAILS BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS, BUT
THERE IS NO EASY WAY TO FREEDOM. ZIMBABWEANS MUST
CONFRONT AUTOCRACY WITH THE SAME RESOLUTION AND
DETERMINATION SIMILAR TO THE RUTHLESSNESS WITH
WHICH THE DESPOTIC REGIME HAS MAINTAINED A JACKBOOT
ON THEIR NECKS FOR SO LONG. IT IS NO LONGER A
CHOICE OF GOVERNMENTS; IT IS NOW A PLAIN AND SIMPLE
CHOICE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL; BETWEEN HOPE AND
DESPAIR; BETWEEN LIFE AND CERTAIN DEATH. . . IN
THEIR VALIANT STRUGGLE AGAINST AUTOCRACY,
ZIMBABWEANS MUST TAKE COURAGE AND COMFORT IN THE
KNOWLEDGE THAT PEACE-LOVING AND DEMOCRATIC NATIONS
OF THE WORLD ARE BEHIND THEM. THE REGIME CAN
CONTINUE TO MURDER, TORTURE, RAPE, BRUTALIZE,
DEHUMANIZE AND COMMIT ALL MANNER OF CRIMES AGAINST
HUMANITY. BUT ONE THING IS CERTAIN: THE PEOPLE
SHALL PREVAIL IN THE END AND THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR
THIS OUTRAGE WILL ONE DAY HAVE TO ANSWER BEFORE A

COURT OF THE PEOPLE'S JUSTICE. THERE IS NO
DICTATOR IN HISTORY, HOWEVER MIGHTY, WHO HAS
DEFEATED THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE. A DESPOTIC REGIME
THAT IS DRENCHED IN THE BLOOD OF THE SLAUGHTERED
HUNDREDS, AND PEGGED ON THE FRESH SKELETONS OF
ZIMBABWEANS, MUST BE FOUGHT TO THE BITTER END. . .
ZIMBABWEANS MUST VOW THAT THERE WILL BE NO
COMPROMISE OR SURRENDER."

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16. UNDER HEADLINE "TSVANGIRAI SINKS INTO POLITICAL
OBLIVION," THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED WEEKLY "THE
SUNDAY MAIL" (03/17) COMMENTS:

"THE DUST WILL NOT SETTLE EASILY ON ZIMBABWE'S
WATERSHED ELECTION, WHICH SAW PRESIDENT MUGABE, THE
INDEFATIGABLE CHAMPION OF BLACK NATIONALISM, DEFEAT
MR. MORGAN TSVANGIRAI, THE NEW FACE OF NEO-
COLONIALISM IN AFRICA. TSVANGIRAI'S DEFEAT HAD FAR-
REACHING EFFECTS NOT ONLY IN AFRICA BUT ALSO THE
WORLD OVER. . . ZIMBABWE'S ELECTIONS WERE A TEST
CASE FOR THE POSSIBLE RE-EMERGENCE OF THE RE-
COLONIZATION OF AFRICA THROUGH THE IMPOSITION OF
PLIANT NEOCOLONIAL LEADERS. THIS IS PERHAPS WHY
THERE IS SO MUCH RELIEF AND EXCITEMENT IN PAN-
AFRICAN CIRCLES FROM CAPE TO CAIRO AND SO MUCH
CRYING IN EUROPE AND AMERICA. BUT THE DUST OF THE
ELECTION CONTINUES TO BE RAISED BY REPORTS SUCH AS
THE SHOCKINGLY MISINFORMED AND OUT OF LINE REPORT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OBSERVER GROUP. TO BE FAIR,
THE REPORT READS LIKE A MEMO FROM THE BRITISH
FOREIGN OFFICE AND IS TOTALLY OUT OF SYNC WITH
OTHER REPORTS OF OBSERVER TEAMS. IT ONLY AGREES
WITH REPORTS FROM ONE OR TWO ORGANIZATIONS, WHICH
WERE FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AND WERE THUS AN
EXTENSION OF BRITISH PROPAGANDA. . . WHEN THE
COMMONWEALTH OBSERVER MISSION REPORT IS TAKEN
TOGETHER WITH STATEMENTS BY BRITISH PRIME MINISTER
MR. TONY BLAIR BEFORE THE ELECTIONS THAT THE
OBSERVER GROUP WOULD HAVE TO FIND THAT THE
ELECTIONS ARE NOT FREE AND FAIR, THEN THE WHOLE

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REPORT BECOMES NOTHING BUT JUST A DAMP SQUIB.
WHILE ZIMBABWE'S ELECTIONS WERE NOT PERFECT, THEY
WERE SUBSTANTIALLY FREE AND FAIR. . . MR.
TSVANGIRAI WAS DEFEATED BECAUSE HE DID NOT HAVE
MUCH TO SELL TO THE ELECTORATE. . . ."

17. UNDER HEADLINE "POLL 'VICTORY' MAY PROVE TO BE
MUGABE'S UNDOING," THE INDEPENDENT DAILY "THE DAILY
NEWS" (03/16) COMMENTS:

". . . (PRESIDENT) MUGABE CANNOT URGE THE NATION TO
'BEAT SWORDS INTO PLOUGHSHARES,' WHICH HE RESORTED
TO AFTER HIS 1980 VICTORY, BECAUSE EVEN THAT CALL
WON'T HAVE A RING OF SINCERITY TO IT, AND EVEN IF
IT DID, FEW WOULD BE TAKEN IN BY IT. . . MUGABE
NOW ALSO HAS TO DEAL WITH THE LAWLESSNESS HE
SANCTIONED AND CONDONED DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS.
IT WILL BE A CHALLENGE TO SEE IF HE HAS THE COURAGE
TO PUT HIS FOOT DOWN. ANOTHER HURDLE HE MUST
OVERCOME IS HOW TO OBTAIN INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION
AND LEGITIMACY OF THE OUTCOME OF THE PRESIDENTIAL

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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1236
INFO NSC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
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SIPDIS

AF/PD FOR COX AND ROBERTSON, AF/S FOR KRAFT AND

SCHLACHTER, AF/RA FOR SWANN, INR/R/MR, NSC FOR JENDAYI
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E.O. 12958: N/A

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ELECTION AND EMBARK ON CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES
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SO CRITICAL IN ATTRACTING FOREIGN INVESTMENT THAT
IS VERY CRUCIAL IN TACKLING THE 70 PERCENT
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE. THERE ARE MANY IMMEDIATE
CHALLENGES HE MUST FACE AND ONE OF THE PRESSING
ONES IS THE HUNGER THAT IS STALKING THE COUNTRY'S
POPULATION. HE HAS MADE HIS BED. NOW HE MUST
PREPARE TO LIE ON IT."

18. UNDER HEADLINE "ZIMBABWE WILL REPEL ANY ATTACKS,"
THE BULAWAYO-BASED GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED DAILY
"CHRONICLE" COMMENTS:

". . .MOST AFRICAN STATES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE
OBSERVER TEAMS HAVE SINCE DECLARED THE POLLS FREE
AND FAIR. THE IMPERIALIST WORLD-LED BY BRITAIN AND
THE UNITED STATES AND ITS LOCAL CHIHUAHUAS ON THE
OTHER HAND HAVE BEGGED TO DIFFER PRINCIPALLY
BECAUSE THEIR CANDIDATE, MDC LEADER MORGAN
TSVANGIRAI, LOST. THIS CIRCUS HAS LEFT MANY PEOPLE
WONDERING WHETHER THE LEGITIMACY OF THE RESULT OF
THIS ELECTION IS BEING JUDGED ON THE BASIS OF
DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES AS WE ALL KNOW THEM OR SOME
'I HATE THE FACE' CRITERION. . . WE ALL KNOW THAT
ZIMBABWE'S FORMER COLONIAL MASTER BRITAIN, THE
MAJOR SPONSOR OF MDC, HAD HOPED THAT MR. TSVANGIRAI
WOULD WIN AND THUS PAY THEM BACK BY REVERSING THE
LAND REFORM PROGRAM. THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE PUT
THEM TO SHAME BY VOTING FOR PRESIDENT MUGABE. IN
DOING SO THE MESSAGE FROM THE PEOPLE WAS LOUD AND
CLEAR - WE WANT LAND. NOW LIKE A DOG ON A LEASH,
MDC IS BEING TOLD TO COME UP WITH 'MASS ACTIONS' TO
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ATTACK ZIMBABWE. LET IT BE KNOWN THAT ZIMBABWE HAS
THE CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY TO REPEL SUCH ATTACKS.
WE WANT TO URGE ZIMBABWEANS NOT TO BE USED AS
FODDER BY REFUSING TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE SO-
CALLED 'PROTESTS.' WE WOULD LIKE TO APPLAUD
COUNTRIES SUCH AS SOUTH AFRICA, TANZANIA, NIGERIA,
NAMIBIA, ZAMBIA, CHINA AND KENYA. . WHO HAVE
ALREADY ENDORSED THE ELECTIONS, FOR RESISTING THE
MACHINATIONS OF THE BRITISH AND THE AMERICANS.
THIS IS THE TIME FOR AFRICAN STATES TO UNITE
AGAINST BULLYING TACTICS BY THE WEST. IT IS
UNFORTUNATE THAT SOME OF OUR AFRICAN BROTHERS SUCH
AS THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL, MR. KOFI
ANNAN AND FORMER NIGERIAN PRESIDENT GENERAL
ABDULSALAMI ABUBAKAR WHO CHAIRED THE COMMONWEALTH
OBSERVER MISSION, HAVE DEVELOPED WEAK SPINES. WE
BELIEVE THIS IS A SIMPLE QUESTION OF HE WHO PAYS
THE PIPER CALLS THE TUNE. MR. ANNAN CANNOT BE SEEN
OPPOSING THE AMERICAN POSITION BECAUSE THE UN IS
HEAVILY BANKROLLED BY THE USA. . . WE CANNOT BE
FOOLED BY PEOPLE WHO WANT TO HAVE THEIR CAKE AND
EAT IT. THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE HAVE SPOKEN AND THE
WORLD SHOULD RESPECT THEIR WILL. AFTER ALL
PRESIDENT MUGABE WAS ELECTED TO LEAD ZIMBABWE NOT
THE USA OR BRITAIN."

19. UNDER HEADLINE "NOW THAT THE PEOPLE HAVE VOTED. .
., " THE INDEPENDENT WEEKLY "THE ZIMBABWE MIRROR"
(03/15) COMMENTS:

". . .ZIMBABWE HAS JUST COMPLETED ANOTHER
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SUCCESSFUL EXERCISE IN DEMOCRACY, THROUGH AN
ELECTION IN WHICH BOTH THE RULING ZANU PF AND
OPPOSITION MDC PARTICIPATED FULLY AND,
NOTWITHSTANDING 'ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHTS' HERE
AND THERE, WAS FREE AND FAIR. THEREFORE, IT IS
WHAT HAPPENS HEREAFTER THAT IS MORE IMPORTANT NOW.
. . THE POST-ELECTION PERIOD OFFERS ENORMOUS
OPPORTUNITIES AND POTENTIAL FOR NATIONAL HEALING,
NATIONAL RENEWAL, AND A NATIONAL STRATEGY TOWARDS
ECONOMIC RECOVERY. WE BELIEVE THAT, AS A TRUE
NATIONALIST AND ONE THAT HAS GIVEN THE BEST OF HIS
LIFE TO THE STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION,
ROBERT MUGABE HAS ALREADY A PLAN ON THE BASIS OF
WHICH TO EFFECT A VISION OF THE POST-ELECTION
ZIMBABWE. THIS SHOULD INCLUDE THE NEED FOR ZANU PF
MEMBERS TO REALIZE. . .THAT THE MDC AND ITS
SUPPORTERS ARE PART OF THE ZIMBABWEAN FAMILY; AND

EQUALLY IMPORTANT, THAT THERE ARE GENUINE PROBLEMS
AND GRIEVANCES THAT AFFLICT ZIMBABWEAN SOCIETY AND
FOR WHICH URGENT RESOLUTION WILL NEED TO BE FOUND
AS PART OF THE VISION OF A POST-ELECTION ZIMBABWE."

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USNW-00 DODE-00 DS-00 EUR-00 UTED-00 VC-00 TEDE-00
LAB-01 VCE-00 NSAE-00 CAEX-01 TEST-00 USIE-00 IIP-00
DSCC-00 DRL-02 NFAT-00 SAS-00 /004W

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UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 04 HARARE 000698

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